



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum **News Release**

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Carter Presidential Library to Host Exquisite Chinese Embroidery Exhibit

Only Display of this Exhibit Outside China

ATLANTA, GA. – The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum will present a stunning display of Chinese embroidery beginning **February 19, 2005**. The exhibit, entitled “*Hand to Hand: Two Grand Masters of Suzhou Embroidery*,” features the works of two of China’s most celebrated artisans and the Carter Presidential Library is the only venue outside China to host the works.

“*Hand to Hand*” features 32 pieces by Gu Wenxia, Grand Master Embroiderer of China and her protégé, Yu Fuzhen, Grand Master Embroiderer of Jiangsu Province. Grand Master Gu, as the chief designer and president of the Suzhou Embroidery Research Institute, developed the design for the world-famous “*Kitten Playing with Mantis*.” The design has become the most popular official gift from China to American Presidents. The “Kitten” embroidery is on permanent exhibit at the Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Other variations of the design can be found at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace and the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library.

This collection of unforgettable embroideries will include colorful landscapes, animals, portraits and flowers.

Suzhou embroidery originated in a region of China known for centuries for its high quality silk production. The use of embroidery to decorate garments goes back over 2,000 years. During the Ming Dynasty, Suzhou became a thriving center for silk industries and handicrafts. Paintings were reproduced by embroiderers. Their works were so detailed and striking that they were referred to as “paintings by needle.” In the years that followed, Suzhou embroidery developed a style of its own.

Suzhou embroidery is now known for its refinement, elegance and beauty. Double-sided embroideries are examples of the skill and craftsmanship of the Suzhou artisans.

“*Hand to Hand: Two Grand Masters of Suzhou Embroidery*” will be on display at the Carter Presidential Library and Museum from February 19, 2005 through June 11, 2005. There is no additional charge to see this exhibit. Admission to the President Museum is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors (60 and over), military and students with ID. Those 16 years old and under are free.

The Carter Presidential Library and Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. and on Sunday from noon until 4:45 p.m.

Editors Note: Images of pieces in the exhibit are available upon request.